# THE PERSIAN GULF

City Life and Social Customs in Arabia.

The Slave System and Slaves from Abyssinia.

British Encroachments at Muscat.

#### Decline of American Commerce on the Coast

Although there is a direct mail line between Mus-eat and India there is probably as little really known in Calentta or Bombay of what life and society are nese like as in Paris or New York. Anglo-Indiana will tell you that Muscat is a "beastly little Arab the hottest hole out of pandemonium-in a shronic state of opidemic typhoid fever-containing nothing to eat but dates, fish and camels' milk, and inhabited by a band of fierce and intolerant fanaties, who count it a plons act to out the throat of an infidel. This is a somewhat exaggerated version of the truth. Your correspondent has stayed here a couple of weeks, and has had rather a good time than otherwise, and perhaps the results of his observations may be of interest.

But it is not everybody who knows where Muscat to without first consulting a geographical dictionary. It is therefore as well, perhaps, to state that at is the capital city and seat of government of the province of Oman, which consists of a long strip of country along the southeastern and southern shores of Arabia. From the time of Mahomet until the afteenth century Oman was part of the Saracen empire. Then it was conquered by the Portuguese under Albuquerque, who held it for a century and half; and after passing for a short time into the bands of the Persians a patriotic shelkh, named Ahmed-ebn-Saced, declared the country independent and proclaimed himself Sultan. The sovereagnty of Oman has ever since remained in his family; and until very lately the dynasty was an exceptionally good one. Muscat was in its zenith about thirty years ago. It could then boast a navy of thirty vessels; and as the Sultan furnished con voys for the protection of traders against the pirates, who then infested the waters of the guif, became the centre of trade. The English supposts have, however, now effectually suppressed neering, and a great deal of commerce which seed formerly to come to Muscat now flows direct to the other parts of the gulf—to Linga, Bunder Abbas and Bushire. From this cause and the folly of its later rulers Muscat is steadily decining. The only civilized sailing craft that now come here are lour or five American ships, who load dates for Boston, and occasionally a little French schooner. The English trade is all done by means either of the steamships which call here formightly on their way up and down the Persian Guif or of native buggaows. It may here be mentioned that the United States is one of the three Powers that have secured to their citizens by treaty the privilege of commercial intercourse with Muscat.

For scores of miles along this side of Arabia the coast line is formed by a chain of varren mountains, and Muscat is situated at the head of a little bay

coast line is formed by a chain of parren mountains, and Muscat is situated at the head of a little bay formed by two sours running down from this range into the sea. On each of its land sides the city is surrounded by masses of duil brown rock, over which you will wander vainly in search of a tuit of moss or a blade of grass. They are absolutely have of vegetation; they cannot boast of possessing even a hint of verdure. But perhaps it is this very sternity of its surroundings that gives Muscat such a pleasing appearance, when viewed from a point aumiciently remote from the smells of its least respectable quarters to allow of impartial criticism. If only the dwellings inside the walls be reckoned the city is somewhat less than balf a mile square, and as none but the better class of people can afford the expenses entailed by living within the gates these houses are all of considerable size, and being faced with light colored stucco and huddled together in such a way that it is hard at a short distance to distinguish the narrow passages that divide them they seem but a single mass of white buildings, and show out very strikingly against the darker that of the hills that the sharply up on each side of them. As you come nearer, however, and as foul smells, more numerous and revolting than the celebrated hundred smells of Cologue, begin to have the first mass of runs. As to streets, there are none; there are passages between the houses, certainly; but these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, these are rarely more than six or seven feet in width, the search and are never trase are ru fect in width, frequently less, and are never tra-versed by a wheeled venicle. The Sultan, when he sakes an airing, generally goes out on foot, and sometimes on horsecack. I am told there is no car-

feet in width, frequently less, and are never traversed by a wheeled venicle. The Sultan, when he bakes an airing, generally goes one on foot, and semetimes on horseback. I am told there is no carriage of any description in the country.

In Mascat all the House are duit on pretty much the same model—a thin shell of buildings, one room thick, enclosing an interior quadrantle. Some of them have believate a round the outside, but more have verandas round the intie open square in the centre. The roofs are flat, and the windows are merely obloing holes, protected from the general public partly by wooden shutters and partly by receens of plaster lattice work. All of these houses dute back to remote antiquity; there are very few indeed less than a hundred years old. The one i am hiving in was built at the beginning of the last century, and has not been repaired or even whitewashed within the memory of man. Its walls have suffered addy from time, fli-mage and lough weather; on the outside the plaster has in many places failen away, exposing the rough stones that form the body of the wall, while on the mande the choman has equired a peculiar dingy brown due from smoke and constant contact with the skins of Ethiopian slaves. In the room where we dine part of the wall has been carried away by a cannon shot fired during the rownian as a curiosity; he was shaving when it took the liberty of entering the room. Then one stalress is partly proken down, and the wooden columns of the veranda, cracked with the heat, have staggered away from the perpendicular and threaten soon to fail. And the whole house has an air of feebleness and deex, and it requires but a slight exercise of fancy to people its gloomy corners with the gnosts of generations of lazy Arabs and of their wives, concubines, cunuchs and negro slaves, who lived here before it came into the occupation of a Frank.

Muscat has but few public buildings. In fact, the only ones of any importance are the forts, of which they are two of considerable size, one at cach side of

to fight under the white banner of the imaum, unselves to the quietest corner of the country they can find.

The population of Muscat comprises Acabs, negroes, thindoos and Beloochees. The Arabs form about a third aha the negroes another third. The Hindoos are nearly all merchants, of the "bantan" caste; they come almost exclusively from Cuten and Rajpocasas; and now nearly all the trade of the place is in their hands. The Beloochees are Musculmans, but are looked down upon by the Arabs as an inferior race.

But of course the main staple of the population Bre ine Arabs and their negro slaves. The Arab nere has much the same appearance and character that he is credited with in the "Arabian Nights" and elsewhere. He wears the same long board, not unfrequently dyed the auburn red, which, according to tradition, was the nue of that of the prophet; his head is covered with the same huge turban; his dolties, such as he has, are of the loosest and easiest shape; and in his girdle is stuck a curved dagger, with a highly decorated hit; and he is a model of laziness and patience and placid contentment and inactive benevolence. How he lives as a mystery. Some Arabs are certainly to be seen fishing and camel-driving and even carrying water; but all the really hard work of the place is done by the begrees. There are a few Arabs also who are not above menial service. The men who wait on my host and myself are Arabs, though they wear big daggers in their girdle and keep their own establishments of wives, concubines and negro slaves. They get the enormously high pay of ten dollars a month, which in this poversy-stricken land is enough to procure all the inxuries alluded to; and, under these circumstances, they deem it no degradation to eat the bread of the indide!

Siavery flourishes here as a highly cherished national institution. But domestic slavery among She Arabs is of the mildest possible type; it more or race. But of course the main staple of the population

nearly resembles the bond service rendered to harmam than the toil exacted from a plantation hand. The slaves are all negroes. Some of them come from Zanzibar, while others are imported, through Jedds. Medina and Mecca, from Abyssima. The latter are far the more valuable, owing to their intelligence; but then they are much raver and dearer than the Seedees, or Zanzibar slaves. The latter are frequently nawked about the onzars of Muscat by professional dealers and seem to be worth from \$10 to \$35, according to age, condition. &c. An Abyssimian is valued as from \$50 to \$160. These are, of course, only the rates for men. For women, who are mainly bought for purposes of concubinage, the prices are considerably higher. Even a seedee women, black as the ace of spades, with blubber lips and wool-covered skull, will bring from \$35 to \$40, while a better featured Abyssinian tuless she be past child-bearing, cannot be bought for less than \$75, and may bring anything up to \$500. The trade in women is mostly in the bands of the larger dealers. It is against the fath of a Mostem to expose the face of a woman in the street, and buyers have therefore to go to the dealer's house and make a selection.

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Mothing can be more curious than the system of concubinage established among the Arabs. As present, according to the sect who hold way in Oman, it is only lawful to he peaked, the women man the system of the section of the s

it may also please Him at any time to reverse the situation.

So far I have been speaking mainly of Seedee slaves. Abyssinians are even much better treated, but only because they are capable of much more. Unless the slave when bought is too old to learn he is taught to read and write, and if he shows a good disposition, and proves himself honest and trustworthy, he is employed by his master as his cierk, or as sieward on board a buggalow, or perhaps even as supercargo or captain. Nothing is beyond the grasp of an Abyssinian slave if he only have the patience to wait. His freedom is merely a matter of time, and after that he frequently becomes rich. An Abyssinian slave in an Arab household is in no more degrading a position than was Joseph in Poliphar's household, while, as the steward in an Arab family is not allowed to approach the harem, he may have even fewer chances of meeting unmerited disgrace.

There is, however, one barbarity connected with African slavery in Arabia which cannot be too indignantly condemned, though it has so long existed and is sanctioned by such high Moslem authority that it is not likely to be soon aboilshed. I refer to the inhuman mutilation of boys, so as to fit them for the functions of enunchs. This mutilation is never performed in Arabia; the Arab is too good natured and soft-hearted himself to perpetrace so terrible a crime; but he has no objection to avail-

never performed in Arabia; the Arab is too goodnatured and soft-hearted himself to perpetrate so
terrible a crime; but he has no objection to availing himself of the product of other men's crueity,
and paying them handsomely for the guit they have
incurred. The operation is therefore attempted before the siave leaves Arica, and, although the victims are generally of tender age, only one in ten
survives. This mortality is no doubt partly the resuit of the unskiffail manner in which the mutilation
is performed. The value of the cunuch depends to a
great extent upon the measure of health and strength
which remains to blim.

There are only three white residents in Muscat.
They consist of the Britian Consul, the Britian Consul's clerk and the steamship agent, who is also a
well-to do merchant. But life is not nearly so duil
here as might be anticipated. There is always more
or less pointical excitement affoat, and political excitement takes the form in this country of hard
knocks and broken heads. Mr. Modil, the steamship agent, has twice had to dy for his life during
the revolutions that have taken place ager, and on
one occasion he had great difficulty in effecting his
escape. Surely a man can cheerfully renounce the
pleasures of billiards and baltrooms, of theatres and
card parties, when he has an ever-present consciousness of the uncertainty of human life, especially in Muscat.

Puritan Blue Laws in Muscat-Dancing, Singing and Smoking Prohibited-Long Mustaches a Crime-A Ten Years' Retrospect-British Interference-Injury to Amer-MUSCAT, Dec. 11, 1869.

Muscat was in former times celebrated as a land of song and festivity and pleasure; but it is now groaning under laws of ultra-Puritanical strictness. About a year ago, in a manner which will be more particularly described in a subsequent part of this letter, Azan-bin-Ghes, the present Sultan or Imaum, ascended the throne. Azan is at the head of the Abadee sect of Mussulmans, who are distinguished by the gloomy asceticism of their life and the flerce intolerance of their speculative opinons. Muscat as a city is merely clay in the hands of the petter. All the fighting of the country is done by the Bedouin or wild Arabs, or by the tribes that are not nomadic, and are nevertheless scarcely wholly husbandmen; tripes that till the ground but manage, notwithstanding, to keep themselves in the habit of warfare by an occasional raid upon their neighbors. And as Muscat does an infinit esimal share of the country's fighting she has equally little to say as to the manner in which the country shall be governed. Each master she has enjoyed has taken the privilege of dictating what she shall believe in the way of religion, and how the life of ber inhabitants shall be ordered. But never before has she sighed under so heavy a ruler as now. Just imagine the disgust of a town Arab, whose chibonque or long pipe used to be constantly in his mouth from "early morn till dewy eve," when he is peremptorily forbidden to use tobacco in any form.
And yet such is the present law in Muscat, and it is rigidly enforced. Every night numberless, ubiquitous, unbribable spies prowl about the city, like "the positionce that walketh in darkness." in search of offenders. Woe to the unfortunate wight whose guilt is discovered! For him there shall be, first, a sleepless night in the fort, followed by arraignment before a long-bearded old bigot, who acts as chief modiah, or priest, and whose name is Kuleylee.
Then will come the inevitable punishment. His Then will come the inevitable punishment. His pipe will be broken before his eyes and his tobacco deflied and buried, and then, having been forced to kneel down by the manual persussion of a couple of the imaum's guards, his back will be uncovered and a monster in human form will administer twenty-five or fifty cuts with a hard stick, according to the terms of the sentence. The other day a boy caught smoking died under the castigation he got for it.

But smoking is by no means the only vanity assailed by these Arab fanatics, who are re-enacting in the fatherland of Mohammed the rôle of the Connecticut saints who made their names immortan by "blue" legislation. No, indeed. A man is here legally forbidden also to wear silk; nor may he adorn himself with gold—not even with a thread of the precious metal woven into his turban; nor may he sing, or make a joyful noise on the tomtom or any other musical instrument; nor may be dance; nor may he wear long mustachios. For any of these offences he will be sentenced to more or less cuts of

the stick. It is curious to notice that the people—and, unfortunately, frequently with truth—accuse the men who have thus segmented fun and harmless indulgences out of the world of nameless crimes. Only the other day a modish, or priest, was convicted of an unnasural offence of exceptional guilt. It is singular, certainly, that human nature in Arabia, as in Massachusetts, when strained to a superhuman pitten of spirituality and self denial, should suddenly kick the beam on the other side of the scale.

victed of an unnatural offence of exceptional gaint it is singular, certainly, that human nature in Arabia, as in Massachusetis, when strained to a superhuman piten of spirituality and self denia, should suddenly kick the beam on the other side of the scale.

This legislation has made Azan extremely unpopular, and, unfortunately for him, he is detested, not only by the town people, who can do nothing, but also by the interior tribes, who are ripe for insurrection—some of whom, indeed, are at this very moment in open arms against the present government. To make the political situation here intelligible, now-ever, it will be necessary to call attention to the outrageous and unwarrantable conduct of the British Resident and his subordinates—conduct in most fiagrant violation of international law, and productive of the greatest mischnet to the entire civilized world. To the United States it has been especially mischlevous, since it has ruined one of the markets in which American cotton goods would still compete with English manufactures, notwithstanding the rise in prices. A few years ago, before Great Sittain practically assumed the government of the countries lying on the Persant Guil, the United States found a market for 3,000 bales of goods annually in Museat. Last year an American ship brought out a bundred bales, and could not dispose of them. As will be shown, this is mainly owing to the disorders and anarchy produced in Oman by British medding. To grainfy the personal vanity of Colonel Felly, the British Resident in the Persian Guil, Muscat has been already half ruined, while it can never under him be pacified.

To begin at the beginning, When Syud Saeed died, in 1835, his son Thoweynee, and the privale will be seen already in the country has been already half ruined, while it can never under him be pacified.

To begin at the beginning, when Syud Saeed died, in 1835, his son thoweyer, due to the ferminate of Muscat, while, according to the terms of his will, another brother of the suitant of the case, by wh

most disastrous results; but the release of Thoorkee was not comanded, as the Resident deemed the action of the Consul binding, though it had been clearly an act of treachery.

But Thoorkee successfully made up the quarret with his brother, and even enjoyed a military command under him, and engaged in active service. He was not, however, allowed to resume command of Sohar. In 1855 one of the Suitan's sons, named Selim, who had been previously suspected of treason, suddenly murdered his father, Thowaynee, as some say, by cutting his throat, while others allege that death was caused by poison. Selim had no more valid right to the throne than Thoorkee, and the British Resident refused to recognize him, though, at the same time, he would not declare in favor of Thoorkee. After a while, as the parricide was so unpopular that it was evident he could not long remain at the head of the government, Thoorkee was induced by his friends to head a revolution. The British Resident, however, interfered just as he was on the point of achieving success, and warned him that the British having by this time determined to recognize Selim, he was engaged in a hopeless enterprise. Thoorkee than negonated, through the Resident, a peace with his nephew, and retired to another point on the coast.

A year later, the unpopularity of Selim being yet more manifest, Thoorkee again beaded a revolution. This time he took possession of Muttarah, and his success was so certain that Selim offered to hand over to him half his dominions—Selim to have the the southern half and Thoorkee the northern half; but Thoorkee refused, stating that he would have all or none. But when he was thus assured of triumph Colonel Pelly, the British Resident, appeared on the scene (he had been absent at some other part of the Guifh, ordered Thoorkee to desist fighting, to disband his army, and to surrender his person to the British, threatening, as the penalty of rerusal, that he would hombard Muttarah, a town of some 20,000 inhabitants, aiready in the possession of T

Then about a year ago came the rebellion of Azan-bin-Ghes, the present ruler of Muscat. He marched down from the interior, and, as Theorkee had done previously, took Muttarah. His claim to the throne was very slight. He was one of the royal family down from the interior, and, as Thoorkee had done previously, took Mutarah. His claim to the throne was very slight. He was one of the royal family certainly, but his cliner claim seemed to be on the ground that his lather and uncle had both been killed in the time of Thoweynee—the former after he had surrendered to Thoweynee—the former after he had surrendered to Thoweynee—son, Selim. Rumor says, by the way, in regard to Azan's claim in this respect, that his inter simply surrendered himself and his fort to Selim because he was afraid of his own son, Azan. But these family treachertes in Oman, and, in fact, all over the Guif, are mere matters of course. A man kills his father or his brother or his son without a twinge of remorse. But weak as Azan's claim was, there was no doubt as to his power to selze the government, and Colonel Pelly therefore threatened Azan just as he had threatened Thoorkee; but Azan said boldly that the quarrels of the people of Oman concerned themselves anone. Colonel Pelly telegraphed to his government that Azan had delied him, but his government to the public says and delied him, but his government to the him not on any account to resort to force, but to patch up things as best he could.

Azan was therefore allowed to ascend the throne, but has not even now been recognized. But he was never the choice of the people, and it is only by the sword that he can keep himself a day on the throne. Half the population of Muscat have run away, and the other half are the penniess half who are of no account commercially. Trade at this present moment is almost at a dead standstill, owing to the present insurrection of the Beni Boo Ali tribe having caused the stoppage of all the passes through the mountains but one. An American gentleman who is here burjung dates is thus scarcely able to make up his cargo.

Now, although there can be no doubt that Muscat would have its troubles, even though the British should never interfere with her, is it not clear that that interference, apart altogether from its

#### SEREWD PINAVCIERING.

Erie Jobbers Ontdone-A Case for the Law yers and Questions for the Courts-Are Subscriptions to one Object Payable when Invested in Another

A piece of what might be taken for sharp practice, nt what the aggrieved persons term "shrewd financiering." has just been unveiled in Flushing the end of which is "not yet." About two years ago a number of citizens of Flushing subscribed for the stock of the Flushing and Woodside Railroad, which was to be built under the leader Railroad, which was to be built under the leadership of Oliver Charlick, Orange Judd and others, in
opposition to the old Flushing Railroad, then owned
by Spencer Smith and others. The agreement between the Long Island Railroad Company and the
people of Flushing was drawn up by E. B. Hinsdale.
As the project assumed shape interested parties on
both sides wended thek way to Albany to appear
before the Committee on Railroads for and against
the measure of granting a charter for a bridge over
Newtown crest. The conquest continued until
Onver Charlick boughtout the old Flushing Railroad
and gave the cold shoulder to Judd & Co. The
attorney advised that the contract between the Woodside and Long Island Railroad Companies was worthless and had not and never had any binding effect,
and that Charlick had sunk his stock in Woodside.
Judd & Co. were out and injured to the time of
\$50,600, and to repair their loss got up a new subscription to the Woodside Road, in opposition
to Charlick's new enterprise. The citizens
subscribed liberally that two roads might
be had running into Flushing. While
the subscriptions were still being paid, Orange,
Judd & Co. purchased the Charlick enterprise, and
Judd assumed the presidency, carrying over a large
share of the stock of the original Woodside movement to his new purchase. This being made known,
the people, who had no desire to dabble in railway
stocks, declined to pay a further instainment on their
subscriptions. Could they be compelled to pay? was
a question asked of eminent lawyers, and the answer was, "No." Quietly a special act of the Legislature was obtained to bridge over the difficulty,
and now the attorney of the company is serving
them with a summons and complaint in the Supreme Court. The subscribers have held an indignation meeting, and passed resolutions condemning
Judd & Co. in no measured terms. They appointed
the payment demanded, ship of Oliver Charlick, Orange Judd and others, in

### BROOKLYN CITY.

A Justice Under Arrest-Knights of the Skeleton Key - Assault With a Knife-Robberies-Swill Milk-Sneak Thieving.

The dwelling of Edward Freel, on Lafayette, near Bedford avenue, was entered last evening, and an overcoast, valued at ninety dollars, stolen.

The residence of F. A. Carlies, No. 22 Willow street, was entered by a sneak thief on Saturday afternoon, who escaped with fifteen dollars' worth of silver napkin rings.

Last evening 1,000 workmen were discharged from the Navy Yard in accordance with orders pre-viously issued by the authorities at Washington. A large number of other employes in various de-partments were also notified that they would not be

cob Morch, of No. 180 Grand street, Williamsburg, of defrauding him of \$500 worth of meerschaum pipes and cigar holders by fatse representations, was committed yesterday by Justice Voorhies to answer this morning. Coroner Whitehill last evening examined several witnesses in relation to the cause of the fall of the

S. T. Reuther, of East New York, accused by Ja-

row of tenement houses in Division avenue, Williamsburg, on the afternoon of the 18th ult., by which Joseph Bohner lost his life. The evidence elected was not important, and the inquest was further adjourned until to-morrow evening. Neither the body of John Robinson, of the schooner Gem, nor that of Manuel Antonio, of the brig Ma

donna, has yet been recovered from the river, near Wall street lerry, where they are supposed to have been drowned on Saturday night. Coroner Jones will hold an inquest on the body of Mrs. Robinson, who was drowned at the same time, this morning. Sergeaut Rogers saw two men on Fulton avenue on Sunday night, whom he suspected to be sneak thieves. He took them into custody, when they gave their names as stephen Farmer and Frederick Hirsch, laborers. They were taken before Justice Walsa yesterday; but, being unable to give any satisfactory account of themselves, they were sent to the Penitentiary for six months as vagrants.

John McGovern and Thomas Smith, two indiiduals who were observed prowling along Warren street, near Sixth avenue, at a late hour on Sunday night, excited the suspicion of patrolman Sheridan, of the Fifteth precinct, who took them into custody. Upon searching them at the station house two keys of the night latch and skeleton pattern were found in their possession. They were arranged before Justice Walsh and committed to jail for future expensions.

Mr. Joshua T. Butts, a well known reporter of the New York press, died on Sunday at his residence, in Clinton street, near Fourth place, of cancer of in Clinton street, near Fourth piace, of cancer of the spicen, after a long and painful illness. The deceased was the son of ex-Senator Butts, of this State, and about thirty years of age. He was an excellent phonographer, a fair writer, while his excellent qualities of head and heart won him warm friends wherever he was known. His remains were taken to Westerly, R. I., for interment, yesterday afternoom. Mr. Butts was latterly connected, with the Brooklyn staff of the HERALD.

The case of Bergh against Torgans, the defendart being, as alleged, engaged in the swill milk business, was to have have come up for examination before Justice Thomas Riley yesterday morning, but owning to the absence of the justice from the bench the hearing was postponed. Mr. Bergh, of the Society for the Prevention of Crueity of Animals, and several witnesses were present at the appointed hour, but were disappointed on being informed that Justice Riley has been arrested for contempt of court, which fact interfered with the usual proceedings before that court. tion before Justice Thomas Riley yesterday morn

Patrick Lazarus and John Noonan got into a quarrel at their boarding house, No. 106 Sackett street, when the latter drew a knife and made severa passes at his opponent. In one of the passes Laza passes at his opponent. In one of the passes Lazarus was deprived of the largest part of his masal organ, which will disfigure him for life. Noonan then made his escape in the direction of the Hamilton avenue ferry, hotly pursued by a yelling crowd. He was intercepted at the ferry by officer Grogan, when he was arrested. Yesterday he was taken before Justice Deimar, but Lazarus failed to appear against him.

#### THE PARKS OF BROOKLYN.

Their Cost and Progress-Annual Report of the Park Commissioners.

Testerday afternoon the annual report of the Park Common Council. It is a very lengthy document covering thirty-six pages of foolscap. The report commences by alluding to the awards made for the Prospect Park, amounting to \$1,705,248, which, it is held, was the result of a fair examination of the claims of the parties interested. After congratulating the public upon the improvements in Brooklyn. past and prospective, the question of assessments is

On reference to the assessment rolls of the city property they find that since the commencement of active operations there has been added to the tax list the large amount of \$77,232,410, the Board of Assessors having felt themselves justified by its very obvious increase in adding twenty-five per cent for the year 1869. The amount of such property is now \$190,084,110, while in the rural districts it is \$11,808,933, making the total amount now standing on the assessors' books \$208,433,043; \$32,-820,050 of this money has arisen in the wards immegiately surrounding the Park, including the town of Flatbush, thereby increasing the city's income nearly \$1,000,000.

On the question of boundaries they could not satisfy themselves that the land which they had taken was all that was necessary, and, least of all, that the ground east of Flatbush avenue, in conse-quence of its isolated and disjointed character, could be made to harmonize in any tolerable degree with the fine park land on the other side. They consequently proceeded to mature a plan for the extension of the Park in a direction in which land was cheaper and fortunately better adapted to park purposes while it took nothing from our own taxable property. Their report on this plan was printed and extensively circulated, and met with a hearty approval. Being satisfied with the favorable expression of the public thus obtained, the Commis applied to the Legislature for the additional territory required, at the same time asking for authority to sell so much of the land on the east side of Flatbush avenue as was not embraced in the plan, in order that they might have means to pay for what they proposed to annex on the other side. They obtained a portion of the land required, but, much to their regret, they were refused the fifty acres which they most desired. They were also refused permission to sell, though it had received the approval of the Senate, and is believed to have influenced that body in the passage of a bill for Park extension,

body in the passage of a bill for Park extension, passed the same day.

The Commissioners are convinced of the propriety, in consequence of the extended financial obligations of the city, of making a fresh disposition of the land on the east side of the avenue, in order that it may be sold under their direction, in a way which with not only benefit the Park by giving it proper approaches from the north and east, but will at the same time add largely to the value of property in its rights.

proaches from the north and east, but will at the same time add largely to the value of property in its vicinity.

During the past season the Commissioners have pushed forward the work of construction upon all the parks under their control with as much rapidity as practicable. The whole area under treatment thus far is 352 acres in Prospect Park and 30 acres in Washington Park—255 acres of the former park consisting of woodland, shruobery and meadows with intervening roads, walks, &c., complete. The finest drive extends over a space of five miles in length, and the bridle paths are of an equal distance, with rour additional miles in progress.

Tompkins Park has been recently placed under the control of the Board, but no provision has been made for its improvement. They trust that authority will be given them by the present Legislature to raise money sufficient to perfect the park in a style corresponding with the small parks of this city. The parade ground is now in complete order; a substantial shelter house, with suitable accommodations has been built for the convenience of the military, the main building being forty feet square, with wings extended to the distance of sixty-four feet on each side.

Nothing of importance has been done towards the improvement of City Park, which is becoming less frequented as a pleasure ground

Nothing of importance has been done towards the improvement of City Park, which is becoming less frequented as a pleasure ground every day, as the superior advantages of Washington Park are being developed. The discussion of the best method of fitting up City Park as a place of amusement cannot be resumed to

advantage, the Commissioners think, until our city's debt shalt have been brought within such easy and reasonable proportions as shalt cease to be a serious burden to our taxpayers. Public opinion seems to have fully endorsed the recommendation to use it for the purposes of a general market, and they hoped that some action of the Common Council would ere this have resulted in the establishment of that needed accommodation. They think they should no longer delay to act upon that requirement of the law which placed the Park under their supervision and renders it obligatory upon them to suggest to the Legislature such further legislation in regard to all the Brooklyn parks as they shall deem advisable. They intend to suggest the use of this park for a public market to the Legislature, until it shall be found expedient to resume its use as a park.

The Improvement fund in 1868 was limited to \$3,000,000, including the bonds which had been previously assued. This limit has been reached—but a very considerable portion of the park, including the fifty acres recently annexed, yet remains to be improved—and the Commissioner will be obliged to suspend further operations until the Legislature shall have furnished means for its completion. The cost of such a work of art as the perfection of a public park cannot properly be estimated or executed by contract, but in the judgment of the Commissioners the amount now required will not exceed \$2,000,000.

\$2.000,000.
The amount awarded for the land first purchas 

landscape architect and engineer \$20	
To surveyors, draughtsmen and assistants 28	621
To laborers, mechanics, horses and carts 501	651
	871
Stationery, &c 4	527
	855
	.099
	,031
	,532
	420
Patent pavements	974
Total expenditures 760	680
	.913
THE SMALLER PARKS.	
Washington Park, construction \$51	406
Carroll Park, construction	663
City Fark, construction	44
Connedo Consumed	,818
Parade Ground	,oro
Total\$70	099
	,004
EXPENSES OF PARK MAINTENANCE, 1869.	
Prospect Park	,400
	,987
	,408
City Park 1	.011
City Hall Park	370
Total maintenance account \$87	.218
	.932
Total construction of Prospect Park 766	,680
- Daniel Committee of Troppede Park 100	1000
Grand total awayana of Bank Commission	100
Grand total expense of Park Commission,	

THE BROOKLYN CITY FATHERS.

Lost Municipal Power and the Obliteration

Alderman WH TING urged the adoption of amendments, which abolish all commissions

Alderman WHITING urged the adoption of his amendments, which abolism all commissions and provide for the election of a Mayor and nine Aldermen—instead of twenty-two, as at present—for a term of five years each, and fixes their salary at \$5,000 per annum. It also requires that each of these officials shall file bonds in the amount of \$200,000. The Alderman spoke at considerable length in advocacy of his proposition.

Alderman Berggen read his recommendations upon the charter revision question (both amendments were published in these columns) and gave his views man extended speech upon the necessities which existed for restoring to the people their vested rights of self government, of which they have been so long deprived.

rights of self government, of which they have been years each, to be elected upon a general ticket, so long deprived.

The Aiderman of the Tenth ward argued in favor of nine aidermen for a term of three Aiderman Whitney's amendments look to the election of four of the minority party (republican) upon this ticket, and five upon the minority ticket, in order that a representation may be secured to both parties. The representative of the Tenth ward the ught that the majority should rule, and was not in favor of according any such privileges as proposed to the republican party.

The whole matter was referred to the Special Committee on Albany legislation.

The Board shortly after adjourned for one week.

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR ROBBERY IN WILLIAMSBURG. Yesterday afternoon the sum of \$5,000 was mys-

eriously abstracted from the safe in the office of the

sugar refinery of Muller, Sterck, Hencken & Co., foot

of Division avenue, Williamsburg. The money was

drawn from a bank in the forencon by one of the clerks of the firm and deposited in the safe by him. Leaving the safe door open, the young man retired to a rear room to wash his hands, and on his return to the office the money was missing, as well as a young man who had previously been sitting in the office.

THE LITTLE AUTOMATIC TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

THE LITTLE ABTOMATIC TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

(From the Baltimore American, Jan. 27.)

The National Telegraph Company, under the management of W. P. Westerveit, are making rapid progress in building their new line of telegraph between Washington and New York, and we are great to know that we are to have the most substantial and reliable line ever constructed in this country for the use of the automatic system. The National Company is putting up the recently invented "compound wire"—a steel core covered with pure copper—which, with only half the weight of an ordinary from telegraph wire, has over three times the tensile strength, and nearly four times the conductavity. The first cost of the wire is about donose that ordinarily employed by the old telegraph companies, but the new wire is claimed to be at least tentimes more durable than the common from wire, while its vast superiority as a conductor of electricity will enable the new company to telegraph through long circuits promotly in the heaviest storms, when the ordinary wires are rendered useless.

The new line has been completed some days

through long circuits promotly in the heaviest storms, when the ordinary wires are rendered useless.

The new line has been completed some days between this city and Washington, several gangs of workmen are rapidly setting the poles between faitimore and New York, and it is expected that the line will be completed during the ensuing month. But, in the meantime, we understand the National Company will, within the next week or two open the faitimore and Washington offices, and begin to instruct operators—male and female—in the management of the new machinery, which, however, is exceedingly simple, and can be quickly mastered by any person of ordinary ability.

Notwithstanding the statements which are being industriously circulated to the projudice of the new automatic system, we adhere to the judgment we expressed when we first saw the new machines in operation last summer, and confidently believe that the automatic system is destined to effect an entire revolution in the telegraph and postal business of the country, and we should regard any action upon the question of the postal telegraph at Washington as extremely unwise until after the approaching tests of the new system of telegraphy. If these tests should prove, as we have good reason to believe that they will, that the new system can transmit intelligence ten times faster than the old style of lines and old systems of telegraphy, it will very

neve that they will, that the new system can trans-mit intelligence ten times faster than the old style of lines and old systems of telegraphing, it will very greatly simplify the question as to the future rela-tions of the telegraph and the Post Office Depar-met. By the slow Morse system any great reduction in the rates is impracticable, even under govern-

Kings county.

#### 1869.....\$924,831

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon, Alderman Bergen in the chair.

Alderman McGroarry offered the following, Adderman McGroarry offered the following, which was adopted unanimously:—

Whereas that portion of the land taken for park purposes lying east of Fiatbush avenue has never been improved, not withintanding the public has demanded it and nature made it the most economical and best stapped for such purposes, as expressed on numerous occasions in public meetings in opposition to the sale of this park-list! land lying east of Flatbush avenue; whereas the said Prospect Fark Commissioners have failed to carry out the provisions of the act creating said body, therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five members of this Common Council, in conjunction with his Honor the Mayor, be appointed to draft an act reorganizizing the Prospect Park Commission, and for such other purposes as may be deemed necessary in relation to said Park.

The clerk was instructed to transmit a copy of this The clerk was instructed to transmit a copy of this Alderman McGroabty spoke in support of this measure and denunciatory of the present Park Comreaches throughout the Western Continent. mission system.

A resolution was offered by Alderman Clancy, of the Fifth ward, and adopted by a vote of 18 in the anirmative against 6 in the negative, providing "That the report of the law Committee and the amendments offered by Aldermen Brien and Whitney on amendments to the city charter be referred to a on anendments to the city charter be referred to a committee of seven members to consult with the special committee of the Senators and Assemblymen from this county as to the best plan to restore to the municipal authorities the power of which they have been deprived by the enactment of special commissions? its varied interests can be so divided up that each

members and express and other companies. The Labor Committee shall have charge of all questions and matters of labor arising between members and employés.

Several speakers followed in remarks on the novement, which appeared to them nighly necessary. The labor question, it was stated, would receive ample consideration. The question of investigating credit seemed highly important, as the trade loss many thousands of dollars annually by giving credit to persons whose standing cannot be analyzed. The association, which will bear the title of the New York Boot and Shoe Board of Trade, must not, however, be considered a mercantile agency. The information it must gican respecting the standing of members will be society for the benefit of interested numbers and to render the association respected. It was also stated that as soon as the society is started all differences between the Knights of St. Crispin and their employers will be amicably settled, as heretofore they have had to deal with individual members of the trade, and how can appeal to the whole body, where all questions of labor and wages will receive prompt and respectful attention.

The following members signed the roll yester day:—Stephen Hyat, A. G. Trask, A. S. Richards, Charles D. Bigelow, Z. J. Mable, David Towns, D. B. Powell, James Hewell, M. Dowling, C. Silver, P. Cox, J. Parsons, E. Ditteman, W. M. Hollingshead, Henry Tasker, F. E. Bikkin, C. F. Miller, J. St. Johns, J. E. Bates, J. E. H. Edge, George L. Trask, E. Milens, S. Wilson, G. Munson.

The committee on nominations presented the following proposals for officers:—President, Aaron Chaffin; Vice Freendents, W. A. Hall, S. Hyatt, J. Johns, J. E. Bates, J. E. H. Edge, George L. Trask, E. Milens, S. Wilson, G. Munson.

The committee on nominations presented the following proposals for officers:—President, Aaron Chaffin; Vice Freendents, W. A. Hall, S. Hyatt, J. Whitehouse, E. C. Burt, A. B. Gurrier, G. W. Dubois, G. L. Trask, C. C. Warren; J. Wiggins, H. W. Merriam, Finance Committee, E. Melins,

## NOTE FROM MADAME ANNA BISHOP.

NEW YORK, Jan. 31, 1870. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

Having noticed that a rumor is going the rounds of the press to the effect that my domestic relations are so unhappy as to induce me to apply for a divorce, I beg you will permit me to say through your columns that there is not a solitary particle of truth in the report, and that it is wantly without roundation. ANNA BISHOP SCHULTZ.

HEAVY SHIPMENTS FROM CALIFORNIA.—The Colorado, which sailed for Panama on the 18th, took 200 passengers, \$1,160,987 treasure, 4,690 gallons of brandy, 2,300 gallons wine, 3,600 dry indes and 157,000 pounds of wool. The bullion shipment to New York last week by railroad was large—\$462,316, Nevada (Cgl.) Gazette, Jan. 20.

Soldiers Joining Cabral-Minister Rassett in Hot Water-Steam-Ship Subsidies-The Com-

HAYTI.

Intentions of the Government-Salnave's

Family-A Gold Offering-Dominican

ing Elections.

The steamer City of Port au Prince, Captain Jack-

son, arrived at this port yesterday morning, bringing dates from Port au Prince to the 23d of January. PORT AU PRINCE, Jon. 23, 1870.

The government is now actively engaged in pro-moting the interests of the people and striving to do away with the strong partizan feeling which has so long distracted them. All political prisoners have Salnave's family consisting of his wife, mother

and eleven children, together with the fugitives who had been protected by the American Consul, sailed for Inaguay, and thence they will go to St. Domingo.

The merchants doing business in this city here come forward to offer their gold to the government for the purpose of paying off the crews of their for the purpose of paying on the crews of their naval vessels. The government has accepted this liberat offer and is now paying off the men. The ships are to be laid up. The capitalt of the Quaker city sais to-day by the City of Port au Prince for New York, together with Arthur Folsom, who goes out as Consul for the republic of Hayti at New York. The troops who fought under Sainave at the late engagement at Chaba with Cabrai's army, at which place they were captured with Sainave, have Joined Cabrai's forces with the Intention of attacking the Dominican troops at Azua.

Dominican troops at Azua.

It is asserted that the authorities here hold a letter from Salnave, offering \$50,000, gold, in two drafts on two foreign houses in this city to save his

drafts on two foreign houses in this city to save his life.

The United States Minister, Mr. Bassett, attempted to obtain the body of Salbave for proper burnal by his family, who, as was well known, were at the residence of the Minister; but his request was denied with derision, and insults and threats of death were heaped upon him by the infurince mob.

There appears to be some trouble between the owners of the two steamers plying between this port and New York. The provisional government has granted a subsidy to the steamship Stars and Stripes for carrying a monthly mail between this port and yours, while the owners of the steamship City off Port au Prince claim that by a contract made with the Salbave government, the subsidy belongs to them, and as neither are whing to give up the point just yet, it is thought that ooth steamers will return.

The state of the new government has been made

return.

The slate of the new government has been made up with the names of Nassage Saget for President. Michel Dominque, Governor of the South; North Alexis, Governor of the North, and Brice for Senator. The government, desirous of acting according to the essential provisions of the constitution of 1887, which was nuitified by the late government, have ordered elections in the different districts for members of the lower house. A decree has been issued closing all the ports which were not ports of eatry for foreign vessels prior to the revolution; but the port of Miragone, which has been closed, is now open.

#### NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.

Labor and Capital Hand in Hand-Steps To wards the Formation of a Boot and Shoe Board of Trade-Views of Prominent Their Action Looking to the Restoration of Manufacturers and Jobbers. An adjourned meeting of boot and shoe manu-

acturers and jobbers was held yesterday afternoon at the Astor House, the attendance claiming to re-present \$30,000,000 of trade annually. Mr. Stephen Hyats occupied the chair, and Mr. G. F. Anderson filled the part of secretary. After the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th uit, had been read reports of committees were called on, and that on permanent organization furnished an elaborate review of the question of establishing an organization for the protection of the interests of the trade, in which it says:- "The manufacture and sale of boots and shoes in New York city and vicinity require the use of many million dollars of capital, employs the untiring energy sagacity and labor of thousands of persons of all ges and both sexes, and the scope of the trade Here follows a dissertation on the hazards of trade under which jobbers especially suffer, and the question of the mamifacturers competing with those of the East is ably discussed. In continuation it says: others, and, like them, form a trade union, whereby separate interest will have allotted to it watchful and vigilant guardians." It finally recommends The committee consists of the following Alder-men:—Guck, Thome, McGroarty, Travis, Willard, Stryker and Elilot. Two hundred and nift dollars was voted toward defraying the expenses of the The document was signed by Messrs, Richards, Big elow, Trask, Powell, Dittman, St. John, Elliott, Brint, and Powers.

A long and warm debate followed the reading of this document, the questions of credit and how to ascertain the standing of members being fully disc cussed when the constitution was submitted and accepted. Its chief points of interest are:-Object of the association, to promote the general welfare of the trade by affording facilities for frequent meeting and exchange of views and for general co-operation. Standing committees—six are provided for, viz.:—Finance, Arbitration, Debts and Debtors, Insurance, Transportation and Labor. The duty of the Committee on Debts and Debtors shall be to examine, when requested by two or more interested members, into cases of mercantle failures and suspensions, and report to the president or secretary as speedily as possible the debtor's condition, habilities, assets, &c. The committee may also keep a book ass record of non-payment by any debtor of any indebtedness of any facts or circumstances which may cast a suspicion upon the character or credit of any debtor. The insurance Committee are to procure insurance in reliable companies on the property of members. The Transportation Committee are to treat on questions of freight and regulate differences between members and express and other companies. The Labor Committee shall have charge of all questions and matters of labor arising between members and employés. and exchange of views and for general co-operation